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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SILVER SPRING AND D.C. RESIDENTS SENTENCED FOR  
BANK FRAUD SCHEME**

**GREENBELT, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that David Walters, age 23, of Silver Spring, Maryland was sentenced yesterday by the Honorable Peter J. Messitte to serve 78 months in prison for his involvement in a bank fraud scheme affecting several area banks and businesses, and for being a convicted felon-in-possession of a firearm. Mr. Walters was also ordered to pay more than \$200,000 restitution to the victims of the bank fraud scheme.

According to the plea agreement presented to the court, in May, 2001 the U.S. Secret Service began investigating a bank fraud scheme in which from the fall of 2000 to the summer of 2001 Bennett Foman provided Walters with copies of checks written by businesses and area law firms to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Walters created multiple counterfeit checks from these photocopies, as well as from checks from McDonald's, a former employer, and official SunTrust checks, in an aggregate amount of almost \$500,000. The counterfeit checks were made payable to Bennett Foman, Shamika Fairchild, Chernell Smith, and other individuals recruited by Walters and

Brendan McCarron to act as “runners”. The “runners” deposited and cashed more than 75 checks at local banks and liquor stores, and obtained more than \$200,000 in proceeds.

Walters pled guilty to the bank scheme on June 20, 2002. Judge Messitte has also sentenced the co-defendants pursuant to their plea agreements as follows: Brendan McCarron, age 23, of Silver Spring, Maryland sentenced on March 10, 2003 to 2 years in prison and to make restitution of \$156,867.43; Bennett Foman, Jr., age 25, of Washington, D.C. sentenced on July 30, 2002 to 15 months in prison and restitution of \$156,867.43; Shamika Fairchild, age 23, of Washington, D.C. sentenced on October 10, 2002 to 4 years probation and restitution of \$13,028.99; Chernell Smith, age 32, of Suitland, Maryland sentenced on July 15, 2002 to 5 years probation, 4 months home detention, and restitution of \$9,519.73.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, Washington Field Office and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gina L. Simms